

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:GACHESTER
APPROVED BY EUR:JGOODBY
EUR/SOV:KBROWN
EUR/CE:RCBARKLEY

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-----045195 140223Z /15 S

P 132215Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150183

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PGOV, BQG, (HESS, RUDOLPH)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON HESS

REF: STATE 146026

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST CALLED IN AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN
JUNE 12 TO MAKE HESS DEMARCHE (REFTEL). VEST FIRST REFERRED
TO THE SECRETARY'S APPEAL TO GROMYKO IN MARCH 1977 TO AGREE
TO RELEASE HESS ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS AND SAID HE WAS
SPEAKING FOR THE SECRETARY ON THIS MATTER. VEST INDICATED
WE THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE TO RAISE HESS AGAIN TO SHOW OUR
SERIOUS INTEREST IN HIS RELEASE. VEST CONTINUED BY ALLUDING
TO HESS' ADVANCING AGE AND MADE THE OBSERVATION THAT IT
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WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE US OR THE USSR FOR HIM
TO DIE IN PRISON. VEST CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WAS NOT
ASKING FOR A REPLY NOW BUT WISHED US VIEWS BE CONVEYED TO
THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

2. DOBRYNIN REPLIED THAT MEMORIES WERE LONG IN THE SOVIET
UNION AND THAT HESS' IMPRISONMENT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED

A SIGN OF CRUELTY. HE INDICATED HE WOULD REPORT US VIEWS TO MOSCOW.

3. DEPT DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE THIS DEMARCHE PUBLIC. SINCE

HESS WAS NOT ONLY SUBJECT US RAISED AT MEETING, DEPT HAS RESPONDED TO PRESS INQUIRY TO EFFECT THAT PURPOSE OF VEST/ DOBRYNIN DISCUSSION WAS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST ON EVE OF VEST'S DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE. CHRISTOPHER

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Concepts: DEMARCHE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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